

MAARIV
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
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THE U.S. REQUESTS EXEMPTION OF BLACK HEBREW SUSPECTED OF FRAUD

Pertains to some members of the sect residing in Dimona FBI to relay information to Israel*

BY: Yair Kottler, Maariv New York Correspondent

The F.B.I. and the Chicago District Attorney promised to provide Israel with information on the criminal offenses perpetrated in the U.S. by Black Hebrews now residing in Dimona.

Nitsav Mishne Michael Buchner, Israel Police representative in the U.S.A. met last Wednesday members of the F.B.I. in Chicago, with investigators, bank representatives and of airlines.

Mr. Buchner was informed that Black Hebrew leaders infiltrate their men in such places of employment as airlines, banks and commercial agencies. After having learned the secrets of the companies, they succeed in defrauding them by issuing bank checks with no provision, to register different names on tickets to Israel and other countries, and even to issue credit cards in imaginary names.

The possibility that the U.S. may ask from Israel for the extradition of those Black Hebrews living in Dimona who are suspected of fraud, is not excluded. Until now the F.B.I. and the Chicago District Attorney refrained from taking such a step. They even withheld from Israel information because of the sensibility of the subject concerning Blacks in general.

High-ranking officer Buchner told this correspondent that "about 80 or 90 Black Hebrews residing in Dimona arrived in Israel fraudulently and under false pretenses. The offences were perpetrated in the U.S.A. before their arrival in Israel".

"American Airlines complained to the F.B.I. that blank tickets were stolen and issued in the name of other companies by Black Hebrews who arrived in Israel in this manner. This important information was not relayed to Israel by the F.B.I. Now, the F.B.I. believes that they should be tried in the U.S.A. also for giving false information upon applying for passports for fear that their criminal past be discovered.

The scope of the fraud per individual is estimated to range between 5,000 to 20,000 dollars.

The Black Hebrews are known in the U.S.A. as a group. 500 to 600 reside in Chicago and few hundreds in other cities. There are 1,000 to 1,200 in Dimona. Some of these fear to return to the U.S.A. because of their past. All are subservient to their leader, Ben Carter who lives in Dimona.

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Officer Buchner concluded; "It is clear to us that the Black Hebrews have no direct or indirect connection with the Jewish People. Only the Almighty knows why they chose to be Hebrews."

Mr. Zev Chefetz, Director of the Government Press Office, will be returning from the U.S.A. today to Israel after spending one month in meetings with U.S. Black leaders. He shall have one important recommendation to Prime Minister Begin: Israel should demonstrate more sensitivity to the Black population of the U.S.A.

He believes that Israel is giving a secondary importance to the tension between the Blacks and the Jews. "This is an internal problems in the relations between the two groups", he told Maariv correspondent.

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